

Good Morning ladies and gentlemen!

Honorable Dr. Dongxin Feng, Madam Chair of RCA

Mr. Anhar Riza Antariksawan, National Representative of Indonesia,

Mr. Abu Sayeed Mohammad Firoz, National Representative of Bangladesh,

Mr. Tseren Damdinsuren, National Representative of Mongolia,

Esteemed colleagues and distinguished guests!

On behalf of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of the Republic of Korea, I would like to express my appreciation for the opportunity to address congratulatory remarks on the occasion of the Workshop on Enhancing Strategic Goals of RCARO.

Allow me first to extend my special thanks to RCARO for organizing this event, bringing together such important guests of RCA to reach fruitful outcomes which can contribute to the development of RCA and RCARO.

Distinguished guests!

This year, RCA celebrates its 40th anniversary and 18 Member States including Nepal agreed to the 5th extension of the 1987 RCA Agreement.

Over the past years, RCA has greatly contributed to its Member States, mostly developing countries, in many areas such as agriculture, human health, industry and environment by successfully implementing projects using nuclear science and technology.

Among other regional agreements, RCA is perceived as the best practices and international benchmark for regional cooperative agreement. It has played a pivotal role in enhancing nuclear technology cooperation in Asia-Pacific region. The valuable cooperation among Member States, IAEA and RCARO has been devoted to balancing and eventually improving the capability of nuclear technology in the region.

Taking note of the successful operation of RCARO and a great demand for retaining and using nuclear science and technology in the region, as well as limited support by the Agency, RCARO is encouraged to take more initiatives for the sustainable development of RCA. So, it is timely and important to discuss ways to enhance the strategic goals of RCARO.

In this respect, Government of the Republic of Korea, as its host country, welcomes the idea of RCARO's taking more initiatives, such as RCA project planning, management and

evaluation, and will provide financial support when needed.

Along with this, the strong support by the Member States will be also necessary for the successful implementation of RCARO activities.

As I understood, this workshop will discuss the future direction of RCARO by reviewing and analyzing its achievements and roles. I hope all of you could actively involve yourselves in sharing ideas to strengthen the role of RCARO.

In conclusion, I would like to thank those who have prepared and provided assistance in every direction for the workshop. I wish the workshop a great success.

As Korea's precious natural heritage, Jeju island is world famous for landscape of singular beauty. I wish you a pleasant stay and have wonderful time in Jeju.

Thank you for your attention.